THE MINISTER OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Based on representations received from edible oil industry and from growers of oil seeds, the customs duty on import of edible has been incresed on 12.6.2000.

The total duty of customs on 'Edible grade crude vegetable oils (excluding coconut oil, palm oil and its fractions whether refined or not) imported in loose or bulk form for the manufacture of vanaspati or for refining' has been increased from 16.5% to 27.5% the duty on "Refined vegetable Oils (other than coconut oil, RBD palm oil, RBD palm kernel *oil* and palm stearin) of edible grade in loose or bulk form" has been increased from 32.6% to 44.04%. Similarly the duty on 'Coconut oil and Refined palm oil' has been incresed from 44.04% to 50.8%.

News *item* "EU rice policy, hits basmati"

781. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "EU rice policy hits basmati" published in the Economic Times, dated 2nd July, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(h) EU's proposal to end the intervention price it still at the proposal stage.

FDI in trading subsidiaries

782. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHJTHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on a new policy to govern FDI in trading subsidiaries dealing in retail trading; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?